

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 4, 2003/Agrahayana 13, 1925 (Saka)

(Ministries; Prime Minister: Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food
and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region;
Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road
Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space;
Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

Development of communication
system in the country

†*41. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) the amount which was to be spent
on the development of communication
system in various States of the country
during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and
the details of the amount which has been
spent so far, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to
improve the communication system in the
country?

Procurement of foodgrains

*42. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will
the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that

monopolization of procurement of food-
grains by Central and State agencies has
institutionalized inefficiency;

(b) if so, what measures Government
plan to take to reduce inefficiency in this
sector; and

(c) to what extent the consumers would
be benefited from these measures?

Controversy over location of
UCIL

*43. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Environmental clearance has
been obtained for the location of Uranium
Corporation of India Ltd. in Andhra
Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a controversy over
the location of the Uranium Corporation

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of India Ltd. (UCIL) in Nalgonda, district of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for people agitating on dangers of the proposed Uranium project; and

(e) by when the project would be functional?

National policy for voluntary organisations

†*44. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to formulate a national policy for voluntary organisations so that these organisations become self dependent and improve their economic condition by donation and other means;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the policy in this regard is likely to be announced?

BPL Scheme in Delhi

*45. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families below poverty line identified so far, State-wise;

(b) whether Delhi Government has requested the Centre to lift the restrictions on enrolment of people under BPL Scheme in Delhi as it has large number of slum clusters and unauthorised colonies consisting of about 60 to 70 per cent of people;

(c) whether Delhi Government has also requested to enhance the annual limit from Rs. 24,200 to 50,000 for getting benefit under BPL Scheme; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

Reduction in H-1B Visas by U.S.A.

*46. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has decided to reduce H-1B visas much less than the proposed number of 65,000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the US Administration is seriously thinking of reducing even the L-1 visas used to transfer staff from one office to another;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons behind this step and the action that has been contemplated by Government in this regard?

Expansion and Upgradation of I.T.

*47. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps to be taken for the expansion and upgradation of the Information Technology in all the States of the country, equally;

(b) whether Government propose to provide special assistance to bring forward the under developed States in the said field; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the proposals accepted for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 alongwith the locations thereof?

Talks between India and China on border dispute

*48. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether official talks between India and China were held recently to solve the boundary dispute between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Bangladesh Government's objection over interlinking of rivers by India

*49. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has expressed objection and resentment against the interlinking of rivers proposed to be initiated by India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the grounds on which the objections are based; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to allay the misapprehensions of the Government of Bangladesh in this regard?

Irrigation schemes under North East Council (NEC)

*50. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation schemes included by NEC works planned for Tripura;

(b) the details of the irrigation schemes to be undertaken by NEC in other States; and

(c) if there is no scheme for irrigation in the North-Eastern States under NEC, the reasons therefor?

Insurance scheme for Indians going abroad

*51. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Insurance Scheme is proposed to be introduced for Indians who go abroad including Gulf Countries for work;

(b) if so, the details thereof including purpose, amount to be paid and the amount expected to be collected during the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(c) whether fees are collected during emigration clearance for benefits, evacuation of workers from their respective countries/ work place during emergency situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of above fund acquired as on date, State-wise, category-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to cancel the fee in the light of the above Insurance Scheme?

**Amendment of Industrial
Employment (Standing Orders)
Central Rules, 1946**

*52. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering
a proposal to amend the Industrial
Employment (Standing Orders) Central
Rules, 1946 in order to allow the industrial
units to recruit manpower on fixed term
contracts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Welfare schemes for agricultural
labourers**

†*53. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased
to state:

(a) the details of the welfare schemes
formulated and implemented by
Government for the agricultural labourers
in different parts of the country especially
in Bihar, U.P., Orissa, M.P., Rajasthan and
other States during the last three years;

(b) to what extent the agricultural
labourers have been benefited by these
schemes;

(c) the amount prescribed for the
purpose during the said period; and

(d) the details of the new schemes
proposed to be formulated by Government
during the current financial year?

**Outcome of PM's recent visit to
Russia, Central Asia and Syria**

*54. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the
Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) the primary policy decisions taken
during the recent visit of the Prime Minister
and his delegation to Russia, Central Asia
and Syria;

(b) the number of treaties/agreements
signed;

(c) the main areas covered under these
agreements; and

(d) the major benefits to the country
from these joint declarations?

**'Backward District Initiative'
programme in Orissa**

*55. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has approved a
special package for development of seven
districts of Orissa under the 'Backward
District Initiative Programme'; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas so
covered in the State under the above
programme and Central assistance provided
for the purpose to each of the block?

Increase in prices of edible oils

*56. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will
the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
increase in prices of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring down
their prices?

**Telephone facilities in the villages
of Assam**

*57. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH
SHARMAH: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (a) the number of villages in Assam which have not been provided with telephone facilities as yet;
- (b) the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when this facility is likely to be provided in the State?

North-East Express Highway

*58. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a plan for North-East Express Highway is under consideration of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the implementation status and the target set towards commissioning of East West Corridor in various sectors including NER; and
- (d) the details of the plan, if any, to extend the area of this corridor in phase-II?

Agreements during Indo-ASEAN Summit

*59. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Bali for Indo-ASEAN Summit, a number of agreements were signed for mutual Cooperation, including one for Comprehensive Economic

Cooperation for a Free Trade Zone, besides augmenting air and rail links to different ASEAN destinations;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps since taken in this regard?

Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project

*60. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether atleast eleven of the 31 States, through which the Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project passes, have not met their obligation for timely land acquisition;
- (b) if so, whether Centre have stopped financial assistance to seven States for road construction and maintenance as they had not been adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles and were raising revenue by permitting overloading in their territories;
- (c) whether Prime Minister has written to Chief Ministers of these States to expedite land acquisition; and
- (d) if so, the present position of this project?

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